



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
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Members of the South Carolina Large Animal Response Team use a sling to rescue a horse during an exercise in that state. Photo courtesy of NHDART.

NEW TEAM TO MANAGE ANIMAL HEALTH DURING DISASTERS – One of the wild cards of disaster response is what to do with animals when their owners are forced to evacuate. Farm animals like dairy cows need round-the-clock attention. And household pets are members of the family: people won't leave without them. Yet many human shelters can only admit service animals like seeing-eye dogs. A new group has been formed in New Hampshire to coordinate efforts to deal with the problems of animals in disasters. The New Hampshire Disaster Animal Response Team or NHDART, was organized to provide one-stop shopping for farmers and pet owners with animal care problems during disasters. It plans to coordinate the work of existing local animal response groups and to provide planning and training to expand the state's animal disaster response capacity.

NHDART's acting executive director is Lora dePlante. She may be contacted at 878-3795 or 318-1949, or by e-mail at loradeplante7@msn.com.

Federal law now requires emergency planning for animals. Local emergency operations plans should address animal health considerations.

(Information in the above story was taken from an article by state veterinarian Dr. Stephen Crawford, published in *The Communicator*, a newspaper for members of the N.H. Farm Bureau.)

SEABROOK STATION CONDUCTS SECURITY DRILL – Seabrook Station and emergency officials from New Hampshire and Massachusetts conducted a security exercise on July 18th aimed at improving the response to an attack by armed intruders or other security breach. Emergency plans for U.S. nuclear plants have traditionally focused on responding to technological failures that might trigger an accidental release of radioactivity. But since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, more attention has been devoted to potential armed attacks or other terrorist actions. The main difference between the two types of incidents is who is in charge. For a “pumps and pipes” technological incident, plant operators determine the plant’s status and make recommendations on response actions to the state. For a terrorist incident of any kind, a law enforcement joint command will head the response. The role of state and local emergency management in both types of incidents is to plan and carry out actions to protect the public.

The exercise turned up a number of areas where better communication about the status of the incident was desired and emergency planners will be addressing those concerns. Participating in the exercise were Seabrook Station security and operations personnel, N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, N.H. and Massachusetts State Police, Seabrook Police, the Rockingham County Sheriff Department, the towns of Seabrook and Hampton and other agencies.

SEABROOK SIREN AWAKENS SEACOAST RESIDENTS – Some Seacoast residents got a rude awakening late Friday night, July 14th, and into the wee hours of Saturday when a Seabrook Station warning siren in Amesbury, Mass., sounded accidentally several times beginning around 11 p.m. Plant operators used the siren’s public address system to announce that it was an accidental sounding and HSEM notified WOKQ radio, the primary Emergency Alert System station for the Seacoast area. The siren prompted several dozen calls to 911 and local police and at least one family reported packing the car and preparing to evacuate. The accidental activation was apparently related to maintenance work being done on siren equipment.

For the record: Seabrook sirens are the signal to turn on a radio to WOKQ, 97.5 MHz, for emergency information and instructions. They are not a signal to automatically evacuate.

ST. PAUL'S STUDENTS EXAMINE TERRORISM – A dozen students from the St. Paul's School summer Advanced Studies Program took their study of terrorism to HSEM on July 25th, for a tour of the new building and a discussion with the director. The students, all from New Hampshire public schools, were participating in the 50th session of the summer program at the prestigious Concord prep school.

They toured the state Emergency Operations Center and other facilities and participated in discussions of terrorist attacks and how the nation's response to terrorism has changed since the September 11th, 2001 attacks. They also questioned Director Christopher M. Pope about the state and federal roles in combating terrorism and HSEM operations. Pope was on vacation on an undisclosed island off the coast of Maine and joined the class by telephone. He is a St. Paul's School alumnus.

RECALLED CANNED FOOD DISTRIBUTED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE – The Department of Health and Human Services says canned food and dog food manufactured by Castleberry's Food Company of Augusta, Ga., suspected of being contaminated with botulism, was distributed in New Hampshire. The department is urging consumers who have purchased the potentially tainted products to wrap them tightly in plastic bags and throw them out. The department is also working with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the N.H. Grocers Association, food pantries and homeless shelters to locate and eliminate suspect products.

A list of potentially tainted products is posted on the company's website: www.castleberrys.com/news_productrecall.asp. DHHS has also set up a hotline for anyone with questions on the recall. That number is 1-800-852-3345, ext. 4589.

FIRE ACADEMY SEEKS TRAINING VENUES - The N.H. Fire Academy, as part of its customer-driven approach to field training, is looking for host locations to present the "G" courses from the Emergency Management Institute catalog. These courses are presented at no cost to the students and can be scheduled around the needs of the local agencies. Many of these courses are 16 hours or better in length, and those can be tailored to your local needs such as being presented in 4-hour blocks over several weeks if need be. For a list of EMI courses available to local agencies, please check the Fire Academy's website at: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/trainingcert/programs/EmergencyPreparednessTraining.html>

For more information on the programs available and the hosting requirements (there aren't very many), please contact Roy Nieder at 271-2661.

NEW HSEM STAFF – Katya Brennan has joined N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management as a program assistant in the Tech Hazards section. The agency also has two interns: Amy Moutenot in Planning, working on long term disaster recovery, and Laura Keeler in Operations. Welcome aboard to all!